

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 20, 2003. Claims 5 and 9-12 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-4 and 6-8 remain pending upon entry of this amendment. The only substantive amendment herein is the addition of previous dependent claim 5 to claim 1 – thus, **the instant Amendment After Final must be entered.**

Claim 1 (previous claim 5) stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Dohjo (US 6,078,366) in view of Nakamura (US 5,986,723). This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "a first contact hole for electrically connecting either one of the source region and the drain region of the semiconductor thin film to the signal wiring, a second contact hole for electrically connecting to the lead electrode an auxiliary capacitance electrode region lead to the other one of the source region and the drain region of the semiconductor thin film, and a third contact hole for electrically connecting the lead electrode to the pixel electrode." For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates a first contact hole 11 for electrically connecting source region 2b of the semiconductor thin film to the signal wiring 7, a second contact hole 12 for electrically connecting to the lead electrode 17 an auxiliary capacitance electrode region 2d lead to the drain region 2c, and a third contact hole 13 for electrically connecting the lead electrode 17 to the pixel electrode 19 (e.g., pg. 15, lines 11-17). The

cited art, whether taken alone or in the alleged combination, fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid aspects of claim 1 (previous claim 5).

Neither Dohjo nor Nakamura disclose or suggest the claimed three contact holes and their claimed connections called for in claim 1. Thus, even the alleged combination of Dohjo and Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1. Dohjo is entirely unrelated to the aforesaid aspects of claim 1.

With respect to Nakamura, Figs. 1-3 of Nakamura discloses an LCD including semiconductor region 150, scanning lines 17, signal lines 14, and storage capacitance lines 18. Most, but not all, of semiconductor layer 150 is covered by signals lines 14, storage capacitance lines 18, and the drain electrode in Figs. 1-3 (Fig. 1 of the reference illustrates that a small portion of the semiconductor layer 150 between the storage capacitor line 18 and the drain 19 is not covered by any address line, drain electrode, or lead electrode and is thus exposed). With respect to the Fig. 6 embodiment of Nakamura, there is disclosed a light shielding layer 41 provided over an area of semiconductor region 150. However, Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest the claimed three (3) contact holes called for in claim 1.

In particular, while Nakamura in Fig. 1 discloses a source contact and a drain contact (see generally 16 and 19), the reference clearly fails to disclose or suggest the claimed second contact hole for electrically connecting to the lead electrode an auxiliary capacitance electrode region lead to the other one of the source/drain region of the semiconductor thin film as called for by claim 1. Since both Nakamura and Dohjo fail to

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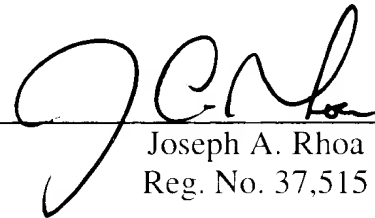
disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 1, the alleged Section 103(a) combination is fundamentally flawed and must be withdrawn.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rhoa", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Joseph A. Rhoa" and the registration number "Reg. No. 37,515" are printed.

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